

VITTORIO SANTORO GALERIE XIPPAS - PARIS



Vittorio Santoro, *Reciprocal Scrutiny (bordereau)*, 2009. Glass letters, neon, transformer, suspension system, electric cable, framed photograph - gelatin silver print on baryte paper, photo: 79 x 79 cm. Courtesy Galerie Xippas, Paris.

Vittorio Santoro likes to juggle with the meaning of words. Take, for instance, *Reciprocal Scrutiny (bordereau)* (2009), a site-specific installation for Galerie Xippas's project room. It consists of a neon sign bearing the words "reciprocal" and "scrutiny," whose reflection can be seen in the over-exposed black photograph hanging on the opposite wall. The photograph is a reproduction of the document used to incriminate Alfred

Dreyfus in 1894, while the neon words invite the viewer to reflect on their meaning and on their connection to the image.

The reference to Marlow (the main character in Joseph Conrad's book *Heart of Darkness*) in the title of the exhibition, "Marlow's Room," offers another opening onto the work. Layering the reality of Dreyfus's incrimination over Marlow's fictional voyage, it ponders the consequences and implications of duplicity and greed and, more generally, the way we consider others and the way they consider us.

A second piece hangs at the entrance to the project room. It is a drawing inscribed with the words "Until Nothing Happens" that the artist has traced again and again in the same place over a period of six months. Emptied of their meaning through constant repetition, they serve to materialize the passage of time.

Rahma Khazam